

IDAHO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

May 8, 2008, Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

Council Chair Con Paulos called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. He expressed his pleasure at having this meeting in conjunction with the WIRED Kickoff event which began after the council business meeting. He noted that Lieutenant Governor Jim Risch and executive leadership of the United States Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration would be joining the meeting later. Chair Paulos announced there were some alternates attending the meeting (see attached list) and also that since the last meeting two members, Jan Nielsen and Pat Minegar, had resigned because their businesses were growing and demanding more of their time. He thanked them for their contributions to the council. The chair introduced Clete Edmunson of Governor Butch Otter's staff. Clete is the new liaison to the council, taking over from Karen McGee. Chair Paulos then asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

The chair then reviewed the agenda. He introduced it by saying he hoped the council could make substantial progress in establishing priorities for the next couple of years. He asked for any changes. The chair identified three items on the consent agenda. The minutes of January 15, 2008 were presented for review and acceptance. Mike Rush moved and Cindy Hedge seconded the minutes be approved as written. The motion carried unanimously.

The chair addressed the other items on the consent agenda. The minutes of the February 20, 2008 Youth Program Design Committee were included for the council's review and the chair noted that Committee Chair Jim Schmidt would give his report later in the meeting. Transmittal 1 is a regular update of changes to the WIA Eligible Training Provider List. Transmittal 2 contains several staff recommendations concerning the PY 2008 WIA Plan and interim service delivery options. These options essentially 1) maintain the current services portfolio until the council approves its approach to youth programs, priorities and how or by whom they will be delivered; 2) maintain the adult services system as is and 3) retain the current method of allocating funds to the state's areas. These interim measures are prudent in light of the current review of WIA program policies and priorities and the impending presidential change. The chair asked if there were any questions and for a motion to approve these consent agenda items and staff recommendations. Mike Rush moved the acceptance of the recommendations and other items in the consent agenda. Cindy Hedge seconded and the motion passed.

Chair's Report

Chair Paulos began his report by noting that the council wrote a letter to the state's congressional delegation in support of the state's workforce development programs. The letter noted that the current economy held much of the blame for the budget cuts, citing Idaho's 58 percent cut in funding since 2002. The chair was pleased to report that

Eastern Idaho was successful in obtaining a Regional Innovation Grant (RIG). This grant will bring together business, the Idaho National Laboratory, the professional-technical education schools, university faculty, elected officials and community leaders to develop a vision of a future labor market (10-15 year horizon) and develop a workforce development plan to meet it.

Chair Paulos reported on his meeting with Gov. Otter. He said he will ask Clete to relay the governor's principal direction to the council, but he would report on a new economic development tactic the governor is exploring, "Come Back to Idaho". This effort, which was implemented in San Diego, involves identifying Idaho alumni who are business owners/chief executive officers to attend a special reception hosted by Idaho business development specialists. The notion is to inform them of the merits of relocating back to Idaho, cite other companies that have done so and list the types of assistance they could receive if they decide to relocate or branch out to Idaho.

Clete said the governor's main message to the council can be summed up, "As we encounter tougher economic times, we (the council and partners) have to worker harder and together". The governor appreciates the time, efforts and sincere interest council members contribute to the state. Clete ended his brief remarks by introducing his assistant Dustin Kuck, stating his appreciation in being able to attend and saying he might have some additional comments during the priorities discussion later in the day.

Chair Paulos resumed his report by saying program performance reports indicate that Idaho has been recognized as the best unemployment insurance program in the country and second in placement of youth and dislocated workers among WIA programs throughout the nation. Chair Paulos recognized the contributions of Idaho Department of Labor Director Roger Madsen and agency staff that were able to make this effort possible. Director Madsen in turn recognized his staff in attendance and said that all of the department's employees should be commended for these achievements.

The chair concluded his remarks by stating how impressed he was concerning all the efforts happening throughout the state. He cited the Magic Valley WIRED project to be kicked off today, the RIG award to Eastern Idaho and an expected RIG award to the Panhandle region. Area II is planning its own Workforce Summit and the southwest area is consumed by the start-up of the College of Western Idaho. Events started in one area, "Hard Hats, Hammers and Hot Dogs" for example, are being replicated elsewhere. There has been the introduction of youth apprenticeship programs and very successful employee recruiting events throughout the state.

Youth Program Design Committee

Committee Chair Jim Schmidt asked Dwight Johnson to provide a brief overview of the tasks the committee has been asked to take up. Dwight reviewed the WIA youth program basic requirements, the need to re-examine WIA's youth service delivery strategies and providers and the challenges of having an effective youth program with a budget that has been reduced over the years to just \$2.3 million.

Jim reported on the committee's activities to date. Since the January state council meeting the youth committee met twice. They have reviewed the current programs, looked at what money goes into administrative costs vs. program costs, talked about ways to make the basic system appropriate for most of those in need of services and the priority needs that should be met through either a basic, a specialized or a combination in a service delivery portfolio. The committee also invited representatives of youth-serving agencies to the meetings and to provide input into the committee's deliberations.

The committee determined these groups to be priorities (not ranked) including youth in the juvenile justice system; foster care youth who are "aging out" of foster care; pregnant and/or parenting teens and youth who are in secondary school professional/technical training programs who intend to continue training at the post-secondary level.

Idaho Department of Correction Director Brent Reinke asked if the department has been involved in the committee. Committee Chair Schmidt replied it is the committee's intent to hear from prison and probation and parole staff as well as persons from the Department of Juvenile Justice. Director Reinke remarked the juvenile justice system is currently overwhelmed.

State Council Strategies Development

Chair Paulos introduced this topic by reminding the members this item had been on the agenda for the previous two meetings but there had not been enough time to get very far on this critical issue. He stated the current set of strategic goals and objectives was set over two years ago, when unemployment was very low and growth explosive. That is not to say the strategies are not relevant today, but it is essential that the council remain current with the times and its assumptions about future workforce needs.

Chair Paulos stated he remains personally concerned that the council has not made any recommendations to the governor about the skills employers want from Idaho's high school graduates. Members approached the subject at the last council meeting when they discussed basing any recommendations on the career cluster concept being introduced into the schools and that is a good step. He was pleased that the council had made other decisions that could be incorporated into the strategies statement. The council endorsed the expanded use of the Career Information System and apprenticeship training for youth and the Idaho Connections proposal for recruiting workers into critical industries. Council members expressed their support of the opportunity of a National Governor's Association Policy Academy on Older Workers. He concluded his introductory remarks by stressing that goals and objectives have to be measurable and doable such that service providers can be held accountable for them.

Cheryl Brush reviewed Transmittal 3 which includes the council's current strategic plan consisting of its mission, vision, goals and objectives and action plan. She noted that the council was being asked to review the goals and objectives and the action plan and to designate priorities. The process is for each member to state his/her priority or comment

on a sticky note and affix to the chart paper which lists a goal and the objectives. These will be collated and presented at the next meeting.

The chair asked Clete to follow up his previous remarks by adding any priorities the governor has in this regard. Clete responded that the governor's overall vision is to 1) promote responsible government which includes addressing a myriad of revenue and funding issues, 2) having a stable energy environment for a growing population and industry needs in light of the limits to hydro-electric, fossil fuel and other sources of power and 3) empowering Idahoans through improving health care, enhancing outdoor activities and property tax relief. Several members asked some questions about tax policy initiatives such as another attempt at granting local optional tax authority and personal property exemptions. Clete noted these issues are being discussed but until the legislative session approaches there probably will not be any specific ideas advanced.

The chair thanked Clete for his valuable input. He then asked the members if they had any priorities or comments to share before starting the priority-setting exercise.

- Dave Yoder said there needs to be better communication between business and education (schools). Also, businesses need to support education.
- John Currin stated the goals should be good for five years.
- Brent Reinke said it is imperative that occupational awareness begin at early ages.
- Melinda Adams said the state would be submitting an application to participate in an NGA Policy Academy and that it is important the state obtain letters of support from Idahoans. The chair posed the question, "Should the council write a letter of support for the Policy Academy?" Jim Schmidt moved and John Whaley seconded the motion to support the state's application. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mike Rush noted postsecondary professional/technical school enrollments usually increase as unemployment increases. He said schools are facing a shortage of training openings and capacity building will be critical for meeting future needs.
- Jim Schmidt stressed the importance of tying academics with vocational training. Also, council members need to stress the value of vocational education as leading to good, high paying jobs to parents, school officials, as well as the students. Finally, he said schools need to provide career education throughout the grades.
- Alex LaBeau said Idahoans need a network among schools to share ideas and even resources. Also, school counselors should be given more time to actually provide career information and guidance.
- Mike Rush noted that research and follow-up studies show that secondary vocational education completers/graduates have a higher 'go-to-college' rate than other students. He also thinks apprenticeship is a good model for youth as it combines academic study with real work.

Chair Paulos thanked the members for their input. He said the discussion so far has led him to think that career clusters and the Career Information System are valuable resources that must be used. He also said the council has a responsibility toward returning veterans and to make sure the priorities of the council can accommodate their needs.

The chair asked the council to set the time for the next meeting. Early in September in Boise was the preference with the actual date to be set later pending hotel availability. Dave Yoder moved and Jim Schmidt seconded the motion to adjourn. The council adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Note: The Workforce Development Alliance Kickoff Event commenced after the council meeting and lunch.

Attendance

Workforce Development Council Members:

Dick Armstrong (absent)
Sue Arnold (absent)
Kara Besst
John Currin
Jerry Miller for Jim Ellick
Millie Flandro
Tom Hally
Cindy Hedge
Betty Kerr (absent)
Alex LaBeau
Tom Luna (absent)
Roger Madsen
Shirley McFaddan
Kirby Ortiz (absent)
Con Paulos
Brent Reinke
Mike Rush
Doug Sayer
Jim Schmidt
Donald Smith
B.J. Swanson (absent)
Robert Lohrmeyer for Dene Thomas
Kent Tingey (absent)
Melinda Adams for Kim Toryanski
Dave Whaley
David Yoder

Guests:

Jim Adams
Susan Baca
Rico Barrera
Stan Brings
Cheryl Brush
Leandra Burns
Jim Cobble
Gail Cushman
Margo Dixon
Jay Engstrom
Sam Greer
Dwight Johnson
Bill Kober
Kent Mallory
John McAllister
Mike Nelson
Kristyn Roan
Lisa Roberts
Marian Steel
Ann Stephens
Larry Szot
Alice Taylor
Brent Tolman